

On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

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Monday, November 23, 2009

## The Coconut Trading Co. opens at the Village Mall



Palm Beach – Friends and clients joined Salamander Holdings managing director Jodi Tobman and her staff for the elegant and congenial opening of the The Coconut Trading Co., at the Village Mall on Palm Beach, paired with a holiday gift preview over sweet indulgences.

Salamander Holdings was celebrating the opening of its new flagship store The Coconut Trading Co., on the eve of the company's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



As the gift guru found the perfect gift for everyone, a nice gathering of guests oohed & ahed over luscious Baileys Irish Cream,

courtesy of Romar Trading and decadent classic French desserts, by the pastry chef of Papillion Restaurant.

In her short but sweet welcome remarks Jodi thanked her dedicated staff for all their efforts and took pleasure in announcing that The Coconut Trading Co. will join hands with



**Price of a barrel of petroleum**  
US\$ 76.65  
↓0.81



FPNC, Fundacion pa Nos Communidad, for an expansion of the company's repair of the world, Tikkun Olam program already in place at T.H. Palm & Company, its equally beautiful gift store at the Playa Linda Beach Resort.

*Continued on Next Page*



# The Coconut Trading Co. opens at the Village Mall



**Continued from Front Page**

Jodi shared that FPNC will receive a percentage of sale from each purchase, from both The Coconut Trading Co. at the Village Mall and The Coconut Trading Co. at the Marriott Ocean Club. A portion of the sale will

be donated in line with the company's core value of community support contributing to the repair of the world.

The not for profit FPNC, believes in Gandhi's view that poverty is the worst



form of violence, and in light of that philosophy set out to create a food bank, a clothing bank and a furniture bank, says Claudio C. Wegdam, Project Coordinator, for Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad, [www.fpncaruba.com](http://www.fpncaruba.com). Salamander Holdings will be FPNC's first proud sponsor.

Pictured here snapshots



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of the festive opening, including an informal ribbon cutting ceremony by writer Rona Coster who often lends her pen to the support of her community □

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## Universal Children's Day celebrated at Centro di Barrio Playa Pabao



In 1954, the UN General Assembly recommended



that all countries institute a Universal Children's Day; a day to encourage worldwide fraternity and understanding between children. On November 20, 1959, the Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of a Child, which has become the designated date for Universal Children's Day. Aruba, one of the countries to accept and ratify this declaration, encourages its population to take time on this day to reflect on the meaning of its tenants.

A number of the island's community centers organize activities, and one of the most active of these is Centro di Barrio Playa Pabao, located on the western outskirts of Oranjestad. Playa Pabao Director Dennis Burke and his committee are dedicated to providing positive outlets for neighborhood children, and Friday was a day of music



and activities made possible through the sponsorship of VNO (Dutch representatives to Aruba) and ATHA, (Youth Work Association.)

Beginning in the afternoon and lasting until after sunset, there were games, snacks and sweet treats, with performances by youthful gaita group Katatumbito, and a show "By Children for Children" featuring students from the Angelo Kindergarten and Chez Dancers. A visit from Sinterklaas was the highlight of the evening, and over three hundred children went home with a memento informing them regarding their rights as children, which is entertaining and easily understand by young minds.

"Most importantly," commented Dennis Burke, "the day is about parents spending time and sharing fun activities with their children, which is the spirit behind many of the activities we organize for our community. We feel this is the foundation of solid, caring neighborhoods and Aruba's future."

For the little ones, it was all about having fun, and parents obviously derived great pleasure from watching their children enjoying their day! □



## Appetizer

- Fish Soup
- Onion Soup
- Conch Fritters
- Escargot
- Salad

## Entrée

- Fresh Catch of the Day prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.
- Jumbo Shrimp from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.
- Filet Mignon 8 oz. US Tenderloin
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- Chocolate or Banana Cake
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# The Jr. Tennis Cup 2009 Competition wraps up a most enjoyable tournament



The Aruba Racquet Club – The 7th annual PriceWaterhouseCoopers Junior Tennis Tournament, organized by Jorge Sanchez, of Sanchez Tennis Services, concluded successfully over the weekend.

Trophies were handed out by PwC company representatives Edsel Lopez and Hans Ruiter, both reiterating the company's continued support for the tournament's future editions,

as reflected in the PwC sponsored banner hanging over central court: Let's Celebrate Together, We Help You Grow.

More than 130 budding tennis stars participated in the three-day event which also incorporating a mini-tennis happening in the program for the first time.

The tournament delivered exciting play, excellent sportsmanship and a set of

new, just-certified tennis referees, endorsed by the Tennis Federation.

Winners of the 7th PWC Jr tennis Cup, are the following:

8 & Under Boys: 1st Frederick Sydow, 2nd Alexon Hessels, 3rd Matthijs de Kool.

10 & Under Boys, 1st Kendrick Paulina, 2nd Patrick Leijenaar, 3<sup>rd</sup> Jasper v/d Berg.

10 & Under Girls: 1st Francine Piaternela, 2nd Ashley Paulina, 3<sup>rd</sup> Angela Winterdal.

12 & Under Boys: 1st Shakim Caines, 2nd Matthijs van Reek, 3rd Alexander Auwerda.

12 & Under Girls: 1st Melissa Salamo, 2nd Nicole Hodgson, 3rd Caressa Deschamps.

14 & Under Boys: 1st Anthony Harms, 2nd Jermain Legrand, 3rd Keith Ponson

14 & Under Girls: 1st Ashley v/d Zee, 2nd Amadee Lee, 3rd Janice Wever.

18 & Under Boys: 1st Lukas Steanbaker, 2nd Dean Frankel, 3rd Jan Kloes.

18 & Under Girls: 1st Stephanie Marchena, 2nd Thessally Zimmerman.

Pictured here, action shots on the courts and memorable award-ceremony moments. □



## Buccaneer Restaurant

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## Little Tennis Happening, a great success



Aruba Racquet Club – During PriceWaterhouseCoopers the weekend 7th annual Junior Tennis Tournament,

organized by Jorge Sanchez, of Sanchez Tennis Services, a one of a kind event brought together 25 mini, first-time tennis players.

The idea to introduce tennis to children under the age of six found many supporters among parents who delivered their babies for an introductory Little Tennis session with rubber balls, racquets and nets.

Little Tennis, just like Little League Baseball or Soccer is intended to bring everyone together; it is inclusive and supportive of all other children's programs, and



parents can participate in the set up and the drills, improving their children's motor skills and helping them discover the wonderful world of tennis. □



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### \*\*\*Human Hints Daily\*\*\*

#### Daily Trials

These are times of increasing bad news. The momentum is building with each passing moment, as one round of layoffs ushers in the next, and each bailout package dwarfs the last. We're all being affected, directly and indirectly, as the pebbles are cast and the lake is disturbed. Humans grow in times of crisis, and we stagnate when we're not challenged. Times of personal crisis are always opportunities to dig deep, to face your challenges and to overcome what seem to be

insurmountable problems. When I'm in a jam, it's interesting to watch myself get out of it, with each decision, each action, and the focus of my mind.

Take action toward a specific goal each day. We will discuss how to set specific short term actions to reach a specific long-term goal on another day. The action you take every day will not only bring you closer to your goal, but will also occupy your mind with possibilities for the future. It will take your mental focus

off of the problem, and force you to focus on the solution. Your life is a reflection of your mind. Keep your mind focused on the solution, add daily action and time, and your life situation will change to reflect your thoughts about yourself.

Transform your life, by transforming your mind. This is the place to gain skills that will literally transform your life. As with all HumanHints affiliates, this comes with a 100% money back guarantee, and it works.

You direct the path, and the details of how it happens will fall into place. The details, the unfolding of the path, are what make life a mystery, and we define the destination, as the daily path unfolds.

Fascinating!

Those daily details, the surprises, complications, situations that arise, all require decisions, and each decision steers our lives closer to the focus in our mind. We all know too well, the

path we create to our future can be riddled with relentless bad news, disappointment and crisis. In the throes of daily life, think of your life as you want it to be, and feel yourself in that life, in your future. As long as you focus on how you want your future life to be, your decisions and actions will lead you there. Life will almost never bring what you're expecting, but it will always go where your mind and actions lead it. When confronted with bad news or a tough decision, the first and most important thing to do is to relax. You won't be able to make rational decisions or see things clearly unless you are relaxed. When we relax, we can detach from our emotions and listen to logic. When we're logical, we can analyze the possible outcomes of each decision, and choose our path wisely.

Learn to stay relaxed throughout the day, especially when you need it most. This program offers a %200

unconditional guarantee, and is proven to work. These are lifetime skills that will improve not only your life, but the lives of those around you, for ever.

Don't ever take your three-dimensional life for granted, for life as a Human on Earth at this Time is the most coveted situation in the Universe. Throughout the realms of energetic expression, Earth in this moment stands as the focal point of attention. Human Beings are the participants on the stage of the Earth, as the entire Universe watches the unscripted moments unfold... The point is that Human Beings on Earth at this Time are in the most coveted position in the Universe. Do not ever take it for granted, even for a moment.

Unti Tomorrow...

#### Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit.

He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and been in the audience of new age channels. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any futrure you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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**PALM BEACH** – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil**'s version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

**Restaurant**  
open daily

Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11  
Sunday 5 pm - 11 pm

For more information or to make reservations, please call 586-4686. □



## MENU ITEMS

Burgers, Pizzas, Salads  
Sandwiches, Wraps  
Wings & Calamari

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## OPENING HOURS

Daily 9 am - 12 am

## WEBSITE

[WWW.BUGALOE.COM](http://WWW.BUGALOE.COM)

## CRAZY FISH MONDAY @ BUGALOE

### Fresh 18oz Snapper or Grouper for only \$ 20

**PALM BEACH** - Fresher than fresh, is the motto of the popular Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill at De Palm Pier. Caught in the morning, served at night... That's the Bugaloe way!

Chef Marc Hernandez is proudly presenting his rich platter with an 18oz Red Snapper or Grouper, a choice depending on the catch of that day. Bugaloe is known for fun and craziness, so it was just a logical step for me to go crazy with this colorful pallet

of exquisite fish, yellow rice and rich vegetables," Chef Marc says. With a smile he adds "And that just for US\$ 20!"

And right he is, as the platter has been a hit from the start. Served with a bottle of white wine this fish feast is truly a delight on your Monday night.

**Bugaloe is located at De Palm Pier in Palm Beach between RIU Palace and Radisson Resort.**

## OPENING HOURS

Bugaloe Beach Bar and Grill is open daily from 9am till midnight. You may go there for a casual lunch or dinner and on Mondays the special is served from 5:30pm till 10:00pm. Reservations are not needed... just follow the good music, the fun and the smiles on the beach and you will know where Bugaloe is.



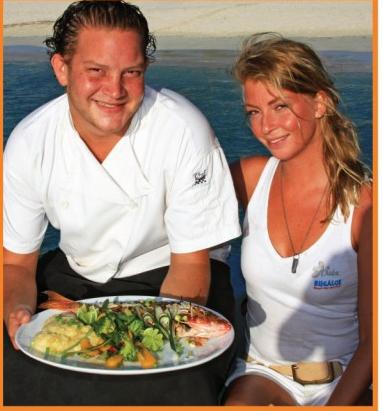
## SALSA WORKSHOP

Always wanted to learn how to dance Salsa? Well, you will get your chance on Wednesday evening. Reggie and Sabine from ArubaSalsa will show you the moves of Latin

dancing. You will learn how to dance Salsa and Merengue in one hour. The FREE workshop starts at 7:30pm. The popular Salsa live band "PM" will take care of the swinging Latin tunes. Fun guaranteed!

## LIVE MUSIC @ BUGALOE

Tuesday 6-9pm: JOYRIDE  
Wednesday 7-11pm: PM Band  
Friday 6-10pm: PM Band  
Sunday 6-10pm: Tsunami, Marisela, Robert Jeand'or or Abstract Dawn



# The Radisson Health Day draws a crowd



Palm Beach – The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa organized an all day health fair on Saturday in the Grand Caribbean Ballroom promoting health and wellbeing, among associates and their family members.



Visitors to the fair interacted with Mental Health service providers, Wellness & Health Vendors and organizations who deliver free educational



lectures, as well as other professional services such as Vision Screening, Blood Pressure and Glucose Screening, Substance Abuse Assessment Services and various other community organizations & counselors were on hand to answer question and richly inform the public. The day also includes Zumba classes



and special activities for children keeping them occupied while the adults tended to their physical condition.

Under the "Yes, I Can be Healthy," slogan the Radisson invited its extended family members to attend the event and hear about Healthy Eating Habits, Stress & Anger Management, Natural Medicine, and Substance Misuse.



Dr. Israel Posner who used Thermography as pain-detecting screening method, enjoyed many visitors, recommending massage for tense and irritated neck and shoulder muscles, as visible in the digital infrared imaging. Visitors



also enjoyed batidos, brain elixirs, chair massages, and Subway sandwiches, in their quest for living well and being healthy.



Compliments to the organizers, as it was an exceptionally interesting day! □



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# The French Steakhouse delivers dining under the stars



Eagle Beach – The French Steakhouse at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa just added another charming dining option, a tropical outdoor courtyard, featuring delicious cuisine under the

stars.

The famed French Steakhouse prides itself on the elegant dining experience it offers patrons in the fully air-conditioned dining room. Yet recently the idea of adding a garden spot to the existing blueprint began to sprout in the creative mind of Executive Chef George Hoek, and he immediately recruited the landscapers to create the intimate, lovely setting. The French Steakhouse Ooh-La-La menu is now served indoor and alfresco, featuring creative appetizers, soups, salads, seafood dishes, poultry and the Pièce de Résistance South American & USDA Beef specialties.

Among popular appetizers the chef's Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple & mango salsa and the Teriyaki Glazed Seared Duck Breast, served with garden greens and balsamic dressing, are real crowd pleasers.

True to the restaurant's French roots, the Onion Soup is a classic, while the Honey Glazed Salmon Salad winks at the exotic East with a sweet soy dressing. The menu features a great variety of seafood dishes from fresh fish to the totally sinful and amazingly decadent Caribbean Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat and Bacon, which became an instant hit. The tequila and sweet chili glaze, lends the Jumbo shrimp a pure taste of heaven!

The French Steakhouse is naturally famous for the South American Churrasco steak, a signature preparation, which now shares the stage with juicy



USDA beef specialties such as NY Sirloin and Filet Mignon.

Light-eaters will find the Jerk Chicken Skewers and the Lemon Herb Broilers very satisfying.

Open seven days a week from 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. the French Steakhouse is blessed with the nicest staff and a delightfully renovated dining room with sparkling China, crisp linen, an interesting bread basket, colossal desserts and live jazz on piano with Eddy Samson who is Aruba's best entertainer, and a walking & breathing music encyclopedia, just whistle the tune, and Eddy will produce a symphonic version of your favorite song.

Hungry patrons will appreciate the Ambassador's 5-course menu featuring the run of the menu highlights for just \$34.95 per person. [www.manchebo.com/steakhouse](http://www.manchebo.com/steakhouse) □

## Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar reinvents Beach Cuisine



Eagle Beach – Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa is widely recognized as the home of Beach Cuisine.

Executive Chef George Hoek and his culinary team serve a Sun Splashed menu on the ocean front terrace, raising the restaurant to a must-visit, must-try status.

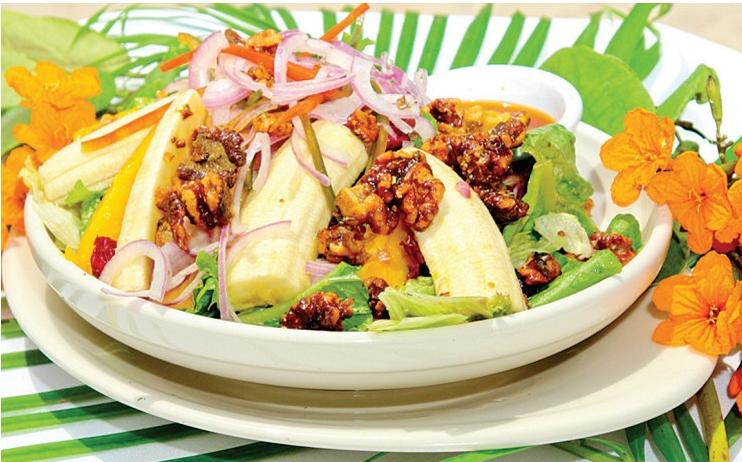
The contemporary menu, lists many favorite dishes from around the world, borrowing inspiration from US, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek and Mediterranean kitchens, all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair.

From Sun-Sational Salads, to Cuban pressed jawbreakers and wraps, mid-day platters also include oversize Beef Burgers, Philly Cheese Steak Sandwiches and Hot Dogs.

The Pega Pega tropical &

frozen cocktail list, with fresh fruit or ice cream smoothies, daiquiris, coladas and

margaritas, leaves nothing out, including Yellow Birds, Sex on the Beach and Mudslides,



making a lunch-time brain-freeze, extremely easy to get! The Pega Pega, one of Aruba's oldest beach bars is open on fabulous Eagle Beach, with

unrivaled views, caring, gracious service, and relaxed atmosphere, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The bar is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. □

## Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano introduces Menu Turistico



Eagle Beach -- Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano located at the heart of the low-rise hotels at the Manchebo Beach Resort &

Spa, delivers authentic Mediterranean flavors, at a reasonable price.

The restaurant has just introduced Menu Turistico a three-course dinner featuring appetizers, main courses and desserts for just \$19.95, per person, plus 15% service charge.

Patrons may choose between home made soup and Caesar salad, Fettuccini Alfredo, Lasagna Casareccia, Spaghetti alla Bolognese or any favorite pizza with Tiramisu, Cheese Cake or Ice Cream for the sweet finale.

Executive Chef George Hoek is the resort's much-appreciated culinary expert. He was the recent recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association in collaboration with the Digicel Group. Chef George accepted the Shoco Award, the national award of excellence, and Aruba's top professional decoration, in the tourism industry. □



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## Investors look to data-heavy week for more clarity

By SARA LEPRO,  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK – Investors are heading toward the final month of the year with more questions about the economy than they had just a few weeks ago. The uncertainty, which follows some downbeat reports on housing and employment, will likely mean choppy trading, especially as volume dwindles during the holiday season. In this week, which will be abbreviated due to Thanksgiving, investors will look to reports on home sales, unemployment and consumer confidence and the start of the holiday shopping season on Friday for more insight into the direction of the economy. The government also will revise its early estimate of the gross domestic product that

said the economy grew at an annual pace of 3.5 percent during the third quarter. Many analysts now expect a smaller increase in GDP because of recent reports on housing and retail sales.

If more reports signal a slow economic rebound, investors could continue selling stocks and buying safe-haven assets like the dollar and short-term Treasurys, as they did last week. Stocks fell from 13-month highs during the latter half of last week on disappointing housing reports and worries about a slump in demand at technology companies. The Dow Jones industrials ended the week with a paltry 0.5 percent gain, while broader indexes finished with losses. And the three-month Treasury

bills' yield briefly turned negative, which meant that investors were willing to in effect pay the government to park their cash in a safe place. Investors have again become more cautious about risk after months of taking advantage of record low interest rates to borrow cheaply and pump money into stocks and commodities. Uneven reports showing small improvements in some industries like manufacturing but still weak numbers in areas like employment and housing, have investors worried that the recovery will be slow and subdued. Not wanting to risk losing the big gains they've amassed since March, investors are locking in profits and padding their portfolios with more safe havens.

"It's a two steps forward, one step back continuum here," said Matt Lloyd, chief investment strategist at Advisors Asset Management. "The economy is recovering, but not in every area."

Still, the market's moves have been orderly, and analysts say that some consolidation is warranted, even healthy, after a 61.3 percent rise in the Standard & Poor's 500 index since early March.

"At some point, you've got to have that shift from enthusiasm over what was based on unquestionably good news, back to the recognition that this can't keep up indefinitely," said Jim Baird, partner and chief investment strategist at Plante Moran Financial Advisors.

Concerns over the direction of the dollar and when the Federal Reserve might raise interest rates could put more pressure on stocks through the end of the year. With anxiety about the economy running high, demand for the dollar may increase. A stronger dollar is bad for commodities producers and exporters because it makes their goods and services more expensive overseas. And U.S. companies that do business in foreign markets make less money when their earnings

are translated from other currencies into dollars.

But the Fed has pledged to keep interest rates low for the foreseeable future to support the economy's recovery, which should keep a lid on the dollar for the time being.

Still, the dollar is sensitive to many outside forces. Last week, the dollar got a boost after European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet said the ECB plans to start reining in some of its stimulus programs. Which direction stocks and the dollar take next depends on what this week's reports have to say about the economy. Many analysts are expecting the data to continue to be mixed, which could lead to erratic trading.

"I wouldn't be surprised to see back and forth (trading)," Lloyd said. "When you have that much data, you usually bounce around."

The week will start with figures on September home sales from the National Association of Realtors. Also Monday, investors will likely keep a close watch on quarterly figures from computer and printer maker Hewlett-Packard Co. for any signs of improving demand after a disappointing outlook from Dell Inc. last week. □



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## Rising unemployment taxes could hinder hiring

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER,

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON – As if small businesses needed another reason not to hire, consider their latest financial burden: The cost of rising unemployment itself.

Employers already are squeezed by tight credit, rising health care costs, wary consumers and a higher minimum wage. Now, the surging jobless rate is imposing another cost. It's forcing higher state taxes on companies to pay for unemployment insurance claims.

Some employers say the extra costs make them less likely to hire. That could be a worrisome sign for the economic recovery, because small businesses create about 60 percent of new jobs. Other employers say they'll cut or freeze pay.

- Chuck Ferrar, who owns a liquor store in Annapolis, Md., expects to pay \$9,000 in unemployment taxes next year, up from \$3,000 this year. Health care costs for his employees will rise by \$8,000, or 17.5 percent. "When you start adding this up, it turns into real money," he said. "If I lose an employee through attrition, I will not replace him. You can't afford to do it."

- Sam Schlosser, owner of Plymouth Foundry Inc. in Plymouth, Ind., said his unemployment tax bill could double next year. Revenue at the family-owned company, which makes iron castings for machine parts, has fallen about 50 percent, he said. In case of higher taxes, his company may have to consider layoffs, he said.

- Marjorie Feldman-Wood, president of Al's Beverages in East Windsor, Conn., which makes soda fountain syrup, said higher taxes would make pay raises less likely. Connecticut is borrowing from the federal government, and employers fear the state will have to raise taxes soon to repay the loan. "There's only so much money at the end of the day," she said.

Bruce Meyer, a University of Chicago economics professor, said his studies show that higher unemployment taxes usually lead to lower pay for employees.

Behind the trend are widespread layoffs. The number of people claiming jobless aid has tripled since the recession began. The demand has drained the funds that many states use to pay jobless claims. Nearly half the states are borrowing from

the federal government.

Now the bills are coming due. States reset their unemployment insurance taxes at the end of each year, and 33 states will raise them next year, according to the National Association of State Workforce Agencies. The states' tax revenue in the last fiscal year fell \$42 billion short of what's needed for unemployment aid.

Most of the tax increases are being triggered by laws requiring higher taxes to make up for a decline in state funds to pay for benefits. In some cases, cuts in jobless aid are required, too.

Florida's minimum unemployment tax, for instance, will skyrocket next year to \$100.30 per employee from \$8.40. The maximum will rise to \$459 per worker from \$378. Like most states, Florida taxes companies more if they've recently laid off workers who draw benefits.

Hawaii will raise its average unemployment tax 10-fold next year, from about \$90 per employee to more than \$1,000. And Maryland's minimum tax will more than triple from \$51 per employee to \$187. Its maximum will jump from \$765 to nearly \$1,150.

Federal law requires states to build up unemployment insurance trust funds in good times so they can pay benefits during downturns. The idea is to avoid having to raise taxes or cut benefits in a recession.

But the severity of this recession has bankrupted many states' trust funds and forced them to borrow from the federal government. States eventually must pay back the loans. Otherwise, the federal government can raise taxes on their businesses. The tax increases will have "a small, negative effect on hiring" because they will raise employers' costs, said Wayne Vroman, an economist at the liberal Urban Institute.

Contributing to the problem is that many states cut their unemployment taxes earlier this decade when the economy was healthier. That left them unprepared for the waves of layoffs that began last fall. Some experts say business groups pushed for the cuts and set the stage for tax increases.

States have been swamped by a jump in recipients, from 2.8 million in May 2008 to nearly 9 million now.

The federal government is paying for about 4 million of those beneficiaries. □



In this photo made Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009, Chuck Ferrar poses for a portrait at his liquor store in Annapolis, Md. Ferrar expects to pay \$9,000 in unemployment taxes next year, up from \$3,000 this year.

(AP Photo/Rob Carr)

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## Newspaper circulation may be worse than it looks

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE,  
AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO - While U.S. newspapers are losing subscribers at a staggering rate, a few dailies stand out because their circulation is rising. But they aren't necessarily selling more copies.

Here's why: Since April 1, new auditing rules have made it easier for newspapers to count a reader as a paying customer. These looser standards are especially helpful to a newspaper if it sells an "electronic edition." That can include a subscriber-only Web site, such as what The Wall Street Journal has, or it can be a digital replica of a newspaper's printed product. Several dozen publications, including USA Today, sell access to these daily "e-editions" that show how the news was laid out in print.

Under the new auditing standards, if a newspaper sells a "bundled" subscription to both the print and electronic editions, the publication is often allowed to count that subscriber twice.

If not for these rules, the industry's numbers would look even worse. Average weekday circulation at 379 U.S. newspapers fell 10.6 percent during the six months ending in September. That was the steepest decline ever recorded by the Audit Bureau of Circulations, the organization that verifies how many people are paying to read publications. It's not clear what the numbers would have been under the old auditing standards. But the effects of the new rules were widespread. There were 59 newspapers that listed at least 5,000 electronic editions in their weekday circulations, according to an Associated Press review of the figures filed with the ABC for the April-September period. In all but a few instances, the number of electronic subscribers was substantially higher than a year ago.

The decline in newspaper circulation has several causes. Many publications

have intentionally reduced the range of their deliveries, cutting out exurbs or distant parts of their states where they sold relatively few copies. Higher prices for home delivery and newsstand copies also have driven some readers away. Publishers are betting they can keep their most loyal readers and are charging them more to help offset their crumbling ad sales — the main source of newspaper revenue.

Nevertheless, many newspapers are still offering discounts to bolster their circulation so they don't risk losing even more advertising revenue. The size of the audience is one factor marketers consider when they buy ads.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal was among the newspapers whose weekday circulation rose from the same time last year. Nevada's largest newspaper saw its average weekday circulation rise 6.6 percent, or nearly 11,000 subscribers, to 175,841. It was a remarkable improvement, given that weekday sales of its print edition fell by 12,000 copies and Las Vegas ranks among the cities hardest hit by the Great Recession.

How did it happen? The Review-Journal's circulation this year included 23,132 electronic editions compared with just 511 at the same time last year. The big difference didn't occur because that many more people suddenly decided to buy the Review-Journal's digital replica of its print edition.

The change happened because the price the newspaper was charging for the online replica — it costs print customers an extra 50 cents per week — hadn't been high enough to qualify as paid circulation until the ABC's April change. That let newspapers define their paying readers as anyone who spends at least a penny for a copy. Previously, a newspaper copy had to sell for at least 25 percent of the basic price to qualify as paid circulation.

The ABC said it changed the rules to

reduce its auditing costs and "provide greater pricing and marketing flexibility" for publishers.

Steve Coffeen, the Review-Journal's circulation director, said it makes sense to count the bundled subscriptions twice, as well as other people buying the electronic edition at a sharp discount, because it provides a complete picture of the newspaper's paying audience. Advertisers generally prize readers who pay for a publication, reasoning they are more likely to peruse it.

"It's important to show advertisers we are fighting the good fight and using other platforms to reach readers," Coffeen said.

That rationale makes sense to Randy Novak, director of newspaper strategy for NSA Media, one of the nation's largest buyers of newspaper ads. He doesn't see much difference between readers who are getting the newspaper at a deep discount or the standard price. He wants to reach people who care enough about the newspaper to be willing to pay for it at all.

However, another big buyer of newspaper ads says the new ABC rules made the reported circulation numbers less credible.

"You really have to do your homework now and ask newspapers about how much double counting is going on," said Allison Howald, U.S. director of print investment at PHD Media.

A surge in digital sales propelled the York Daily Record in Pennsylvania to a 16.5 percent increase in weekday circulation — the highest among dailies selling at least 50,000 copies. The Daily Record listed 10,073 electronic editions in its latest circulation of 55,370. At the same time last year it counted just 42 electronic editions in its circulation of 47,549.

In most cases, the electronic edition is a replica of the printed product, right down to the ads. The technology even makes it

possible to simulate the act of turning the pages of a paper edition. Most electronic editions are sold at a small fraction of the price for the printed edition, partly because publishers don't have to pay for newsprint or fuel to deliver the copy. Web subscriptions were pivotal in The Wall Street Journal's growth over the past decade. The digital sales are the main reason that the Journal surpassed USA Today as the top-selling U.S. newspaper in the April-September period. USA Today, owned by Gannett Co., still holds the edge in print circulation.

The Journal charges its print subscribers an additional 40 cents per week for unrestricted access to its Web site. Journal spokesman Robert Christie wouldn't comment on whether the new rules for counting subscribers contributed to a 14 percent increase in the newspaper's 407,002 digital subscribers. Including the print side, the Journal's total circulation edged up by just 0.6 percent to 2.02 million.

"We followed the ABC's rules and methodology," Christie said.

Some newspapers that posted circulation gains say they are picking up readers who feel abandoned by bigger publications. Cutbacks at newspapers in Atlanta, Charlotte, N.C., and Nashville, Tenn., contributed to most of the 2 percent increase at the 70,000-circulation Chattanooga Times Free Press in Tennessee, said Publisher Tom Griscom. "We are keeping an eye on print and not letting it drift away," Griscom said.

A reduced emphasis on print at The Detroit News and the Detroit Free Press, which now deliver to homes only three days a week, also helped Michigan's Oakland Press increase its weekday circulation 7 percent to 68,067. But electronic sales were the main factor. The newspaper listed 6,500 more electronic editions in its latest circulation numbers than it did a year ago, offsetting a slight decline in print. □

# Study: Scavengers big and small dwell in deep sea

By CAIN BURDEAU,  
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS—Thousands of marine species eke out an existence in the ocean's pitch-black depths by feeding on the snowlike decaying matter that cascades down, and even sunken whale bones, according to a report released Sunday. Oil and methane also are an energy source for the bottom-dwellers, the report says. The findings on the deep sea were the latest special update on a 10-year census of marine life, an effort by more than 2,000 scientists from 80 countries to catalog the oceans' species.

Researchers say that since the census began in 2000, they have recorded 17,650 species living below 656 feet, the point where sunlight ceases. They say they've found 5,722 species living in the extreme depths, waters deeper than 3,280 feet.

"Parts of the deep sea that we assumed were homogenous are actually quite complex," said Robert S. Carney, an oceanographer at Louisiana State University and a lead researcher on the deep seas. The creatures are as weird and outlandish as the creations in a Dr. Seuss book: Tentacled transparent sea cucumbers; primitive "dumbos" that flap ear-like fins; and tubeworms that feed on oil deposits. The census also records the familiar dwellers of the abyss — squids, hermit crabs and

jellyfish.

"The deep sea was considered a desert until not so long ago; it's quite amazing to have documented close to 20,000 forms of life in a zone that was thought to be barren," said Jesse Ausubel with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, a sponsor of the census. "The deep sea is the least explored environment on earth."

In all, the census researchers have so far found about 5,600 new species on top of the 230,000 known. They hope to add several thousand more by October 2010, when the census will be done. The scientists say they could announce that a million or more species remain unknown. On land, biologists have catalogued about 1.5 million plants and animals.

Researching the abyss has been costly and difficult because it involved deep-towed cameras, sonar and remotely operated vehicles that cost \$50,000 a day to operate, Carney said. Odd Aksel Bergstad, an oceanographer with the University of Bergen in Norway who was reached by telephone in the Azores islands, said his team of researchers in the Mid-Atlantic Ridge explored the unknown.

"There were not even good maps for the area," Bergstad said. "Our understanding of the biodiversity there was very weak."

In the mid-Atlantic, researchers found 40 new species and

1,000 in all, he said. "It was a surprise to me to find such rich communities in the middle of the ocean."

Once the census is complete, the plan is to publish three books: a popular survey of sea life, a second book with chapters for each working group and a third focusing on biodiversity.

Ausubel said a census of marine species has never been done. He said some researchers are considering to follow up the 2010 marine census with a 2020 census.

More than 40 new species of coral were documented on deep-sea mountains, along with cities of brittlestars and anemone gardens. Nearly 500 new species ranging from single-celled creatures to large squid were charted in the abyssal plains and basins.

Also of importance were the 170 new species that get their energy from chemicals spewing from ocean-bottom vents and seeps. Among them was a family of "yeti crabs," which have silky, hairlike filaments on the legs. □



This undated photo released by Census of Marine Life and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution shows a transparent sea cucumber, Enypniastes, creeping forward on its many tentacles at about 2 cm per minute while sweeping detritus-rich sediment into its mouth at 2,750 meters in the Northern Gulf of Mexico. Thousands of marine species eke out an existence in the ocean's pitch-black depths by feeding on the snowlike decaying matter that cascades down, and even sunken whale bones, according to a report released Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009.

(AP Photo/Larry Madin)



## Thanksgiving Buffet at La Vista Restaurant Thursday November 26<sup>th</sup> 2009 5.00 PM - 10.30 PM

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### Pasta Station

Fettuccini, Linguini, Farfalle, Shrimp, Scallops, Clams, Mussels  
Roasted Vegetables, Grilled Chicken

### Carving Station

Rosemary and Garlic Spiked Prime Rib w/ Sauce au Jus  
Honey Glazed Ham with Cinnamon-Pineapple Sauce

### Pizza Station

Assorted Homemade Pizzas

### Entrees

Slow Roasted Turkey w/ Sage Dressing and Giblet Gravy  
Mahi Mahi with Papaya Salsa  
Pumpkin Ravioli  
Candied Sweet Potatoes  
Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes  
Honey Glazed Carrots and Green Beans

### Dessert Station

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# Motown caps 50th anniversary with hometown gala



Kid Rock and Stevie Wonder sing a duet during Motown Records 50th anniversary gala on Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009 in Detroit.

(AP Photo/Jerry S. Mendoza)

By JEFF KAROUB,

Associated Press Writer

DETROIT — Black ties and gowns filled a ballroom Saturday in a big-bucks salute to Detroit-style royalty — the King of Motown, the Queen of Soul and the Kid of Rock. Motown Records founder Berry Gordy, along with Aretha Franklin, Kid Rock and Motown's original kid, Stevie Wonder, came to Motown's original hometown for the Motown 50 Golden Gala. The 50th-anniversary event, which fetched \$350 and up for a ticket, was a fundraiser for the Motown Historical Museum. The museum was the original

home of Motown Records Corp., which Gordy started with an \$800 loan.

The event drew about 750 people and many of the big names and behind-the-scenes people from the label, which moved to Los Angeles in 1972. Detroit's output included scores of hits, including "My Girl" by The Temptations, "The Tears of a Clown" by Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, and "I Heard it Through the Grapevine" by Marvin Gaye.

"The pleasure is mine to be here," Gordy said during a pre-concert reception. "I'm thrilled I got the nurturing and

all of the things Detroit had to offer me. Motown could not have made it in any other city."

Gordy was joined on the red carpet earlier in the evening by local and national celebrities and dignitaries, including Otis Williams of the Temptations, which was on the bill; Claudette Robinson of the Miracles; the Rev. Jesse Jackson; comedian Sinbad, the event's host; and Detroit Mayor and former Detroit Pistons all-star Dave Bing.

The musical mingling of classic Motown artists such as Wonder and The Temptations with non-Motown hometown heroes Franklin and Rock reveals the reverence for and relevance of the label.

Kid Rock performed with Wonder on the Motown great's songs "Living For The City" and "Superstition," bringing many of the people in the crowd to their feet. The pair called up others for the finale — a funky, extended version of "Signed, Sealed, Delivered, I'm Yours."

Before taking the stage, Kid Rock called it a "career milestone."

He said his mother, who was out of state, sent him a

text message: "Who would have thought when we were partying in our barn, playing all those Motown records when you were a kid that you'd be playing the 50th gala?"

The gala is a regular event for the museum, but it took a higher profile this year to mark the 50th anniversary of the label's founding.

Museum CEO Audley Smith said the facility wants to expand to hold thousands of artifacts and memorabilia that can't be displayed because of space, but he stressed the museum will maintain the integrity of the well-known Hitsville USA house on West Grand Boulevard.

The gala also included special tributes to Motown alumni who have died, including Michael Jackson. Gordy, at Jackson's memorial service in July, talked about the 10-year-old prodigy he signed, calling him "the greatest entertainer that ever lived."

Homecomings are rare these days for Gordy, who lives in California, but bonds remain: His sister, Esther Gordy Edwards, founded the museum now overseen by his great-niece, Robin Terry. He's also a premier sponsor of the gala.

President Barack Obama sent well wishes via videotape. He said Gordy's "music made history" and his record company "captured a truly American sound."

Franklin sang a customized birthday ode to Gordy, who turns 80 on Nov. 28.

"Detroit, we've waited long enough — Berry's come home at last," she sang.

Afterward, Franklin ushered Gordy to the stage, saying "he absolutely revolutionized the music industry, single-handedly." He was presented a crystal plaque, a large cake and a mass serenade of "Happy Birthday."

Gordy told the crowd he was inspired by his time spent on a Detroit auto factory floor to make a music company that was like "an assembly line" of talent.

"That dream came true." Wonder told The Associated Press after the concert that being a part of Gordy's vision has been a blessing.

"I'm just very, very happy (for) that dream Berry had — him meeting me, hearing me, seeing me, that he saw fit for me to be a part of that dream that became reality." □

## International Emmys to honor David Frost

By CHARLES J. GANS,  
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — British TV personality David Frost will be honored at the 37th Annual International Emmy Awards for a wide-ranging career that has taken him from pioneering political satire on television to conducting serious interviews with former President Richard Nixon and other newsmakers.

ABC's Barbara Walters will present the International Emmy Founders Award to Frost at Monday night's awards gala at the Hilton New York Hotel.

"When they're up there on the stage, you are going to be looking at two of the greatest interviewers in the history of television paired together," said Bruce L. Paisner, president and CEO of the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

The presentation will highlight an evening in which 41 nominees from 17 countries will be competing in 10 categories for International Emmys, honoring excellence in TV programming produced outside the U.S.

British television productions garnered a leading nine nominations, including the long-running MI5 spy series "Spooks" for

best drama and the TV talent show parody "Peter Kay's Britain's got the Pop Factor ... " for top comedy.

Mexico's "Capadocia," produced by HBO Latin America, had three nominations. The series set in a fictional women's prison rife with corruption is in contention for best drama, actress (Cecilia Suarez) and actor (Oscar Olivares).

China's "Ultimate Rescue" was a double nominee for best TV movie/mini-series and actor (Chen Li).

Other British nominees include actress Julie Walters for her role in "A Short Stay in Switzerland," inspired by the true story of a woman who took her own life in a Zurich clinic after being diagnosed with an incurable degenerative disease, and Ben Whishaw for his star turn in the thriller "Criminal Justice," about the odyssey of a 21-year-old defendant accused of murder. Brazil had five nominations, including the comedy "The Slum," followed by the Philippines, Germany and Mexico with three apiece.

Also competing in the best actress category are France's Emma De Caunes for "Night Birds" and the Philippines' Angel Locsin for "The Wolf." Robert de Hoog of the

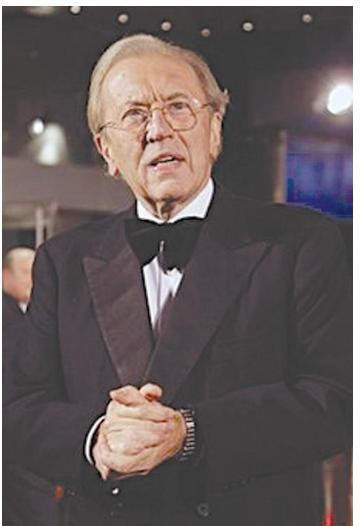
Netherlands was the other best actor nominee for his role in "Skin."

Paisner said the honorary award to Frost is "long overdue." The Founders Award has been presented annually since 1980 to a person who "crosses cultural boundaries to touch our common humanity."

Frost, 70, first gained prominence on both sides of the Atlantic in the early 1960s as host of the irreverent groundbreaking satirical program "That Was The Week That Was" that lampooned the political establishment.

Frost later turned to producing and hosting more serious interview-based shows. He holds the distinction of having interviewed all seven British prime ministers serving since 1964 as well as all seven U.S. presidents in office between 1969 and 2008. Now, he is hosting the weekly program "Frost Over the World" on Al Jazeera English.

"He's had an amazing and unique media career," Paisner said. "One of the really interesting things about David is that he's made a lot of comebacks. I think a lot of people had stopped thinking about him and then (the stage play and Oscar-nominated film) 'Frost/Nixon' appeared and you really saw how good he could be." □



FILE - In this Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008 file photo, British broadcaster David Frost, arrives at the world premiere of Frost/Nixon, and the opening of the London Film Festival, in central London. British TV personality David Frost will be honored at the 37th Annual International Emmy Awards for a wide-ranging career that has taken him from pioneering political satire on television to conducting serious interviews with former President Richard Nixon and other newsmakers.

(AP Photo/Joel Ryan, File)



On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Monday, November 23, 2009



In this photograph provided by "Meet the Press," Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., left, and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, appear on "Meet the Press" Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009, at the NBC studios in Washington.

Associated Press

## Democrats in Senate at odds over health care

By ANNE FLAHERTY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON—Moderate Senate Democrats threatened Sunday to scuttle health-care legislation if their demands aren't met, while more liberal members warned their party leaders not to bend.

The dispute among Democrats foretells of a rowdy floor debate next month on legislation that would extend health care coverage to roughly 31 million Americans. Republicans have already made clear they aren't supporting the bill.

Final passage is in jeopardy, even after the chamber's historic 60-39 vote Saturday night to begin debate.

"I don't want a big-government, Washington-run operation that would undermine the ... private insurance that 200 million Americans now have," said Sen. Ben Nelson, a conservative Nebraska Democrat.

Nelson and three other moderates—Democratic Sens. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana and Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas and Connecticut independent Joe Lieberman—agreed to open debate despite expressing reservations on the measure. Each of them has warned that they might not support the final bill.

One major sticking point is a provision that would allow Americans to buy a federal-run insurance plan if their state allows it. Moderates

say they worry the so-called public option will become a huge and costly entitlement program and that other requirements in the bill could cripple businesses.

"I don't want to fix the problems in our health care system in a way that creates more of an economic crisis," said Lieberman.

The sway held by such a small group of senators has annoyed their more liberal colleagues, who could vote against a final bill if it becomes too watered down.

Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, said he didn't think rank-and-file Democrats would feel compelled to go that far. At the same time, Brown warned Democratic leaders not to make too many concessions.

"I don't want four Democratic senators dictating to the other 56 of us and to the rest of the country — when the public option has this much support — that (a public option is) not going to be in it," said Brown.

The Senate bill would require most Americans to carry insurance and provide subsidies to those who couldn't afford it. Large companies could incur costs if they did not provide coverage to their work force. The insurance industry would come under significant new regulation under the bill, which would first ease and then ban the practice of denying coverage on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions.

Continued on Page B4

Associated Press

## Iran begins war games to protect nuclear sites

Read Page B6



This image provided by NASA shows Astronaut Randolph Bresnik is pictured near a beverage container floating freely on the aft flight deck of Space Shuttle Atlantis Tuesday Nov. 17, 2009. Bresnik announced early Sunday Nov. 22, 2009 his wife Rebecca gave birth to their second child at 11:04 p.m. CST Saturday a daughter named Abigail in Houston while he was aboard the International Space Station. Bresnik says both mama and baby are doing very well.

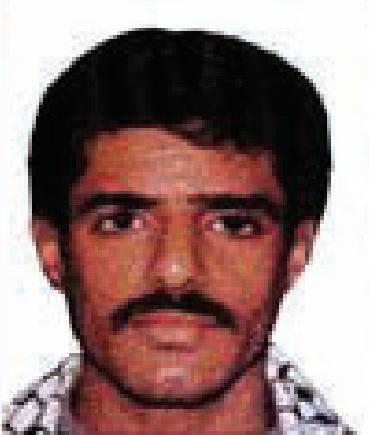
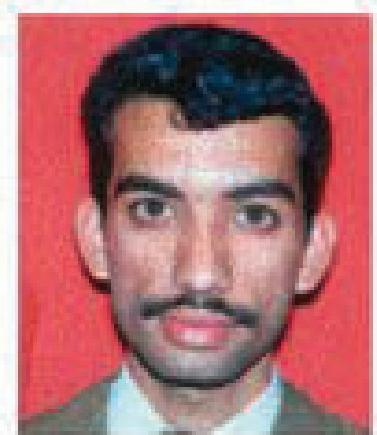
Associated Press



In this image made available Sunday Nov. 22 2009 and taken from Al Alam TV, a missile is fired in an unspecified location in Iran. Iran on Sunday Nov. 22 2009 began large-scale air defense war games aimed at protecting the country's nuclear facilities against any possible attack, state television reported. It said the five-day drill will cover an area a third of the size of Iran and spread across the central, western and southern parts of the country.

Associated Press

# Lawyer: 9/11 defendants want platform for views



This combination of undated photos shows, from left: Ali Abd al-Aziz Ali, Waleed bin Attash, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, Mustafa Ahmad al-Hawsawi and Ramzi Binalshibh. The five men facing trial in the Sept. 11 attacks will plead not guilty so that they can air their criticisms of U.S. foreign policy, the lawyer for one of the defendants said Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009.

*Associated Press*

## KAREN MATTHEWS, Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The five men facing trial in the Sept. 11 attacks will plead not guilty so that they can air their criticisms of U.S. foreign policy, the lawyer for one of the defendants said Sunday.

Scott Fenstermaker, the lawyer for accused terrorist Ali Abd al-Aziz Ali, said the men would not deny their role in the 2001 attacks but "would explain what

happened and why they did it."

The U.S. Justice Department announced earlier this month that Ali and four other men accused of murdering nearly 3,000 people in the deadliest terrorist attack in the U.S. will face a civilian federal trial just blocks from the site of the destroyed World Trade Center.

Ali, also known as Ammar al-Baluchi, is a nephew of professed 9/11

mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

Mohammed, Ali and the others will explain "their assessment of American foreign policy," Fenstermaker said.

"Their assessment is negative," he said.

Fenstermaker met with Ali last week at the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. He has not spoken with the others but said the men have discussed the trial among themselves.

Fenstermaker was first quoted in The New York Times in Sunday's editions.

Critics of Attorney General Eric Holder's decision to try the men in a New York City civilian courthouse have warned that the trial would provide the defendants with

a propaganda platform.

Dean Boyd, a spokesman for the Department of Justice, said Sunday that while the men may attempt to use the trial to express their views, "we have full confidence in the ability of the courts and in particular the federal judge who may preside over the trial to ensure that the proceeding is conducted appropriately and with minimal disruption, as federal courts have done in the past."

Last week, the Senate Judiciary Committee questioned Holder for hours about his decision to send the five 9/11 suspects to New York for trial.

Critics of Holder's decision — mostly Republicans — argued the trial will give Mohammed and his co-

defendants a world stage to spout hateful rhetoric. Holder said such concerns are misplaced, and any pronouncements by the suspects would only make them look worse.

"I have every confidence that the nation and the world will see him for the coward that he is," Holder told the committee.

"I'm not scared of what Khalid Sheikh Mohammed has to say at trial — and no one else needs to be, either."

The attorney general said he does not believe holding the trial in New York — at a federal courthouse that has seen a number of high-profile terrorism trials in recent decades — will increase the risk of terror attacks there. □

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# Bishop asked Kennedy in 2007 to avoid Communion

RAY HENRY

Associated Press Writer

EAST PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (AP) — A month of harsh words between U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy and Roman Catholic Bishop Thomas Tobin escalated Sunday when the bishop acknowledged asking Kennedy not to receive Holy Communion because of the Democratic lawmaker's support for abortion rights.

The bishop's attempt to publicly shame Kennedy comes just a few months after the death of his father, Sen. Edward Kennedy. Tobin told The Associated Press in an interview Sunday that he's praying for the younger Kennedy, who has been in and out of treatment for substance abuse, and said Kennedy has been acting "erratically."

"He attacked the church, he attacked the position of the church on health care, on abortion, on funding," Tobin said. "And that required that I respond. I don't go out looking for these guys. I don't go out picking these fights."

Their dispute began in October when Kennedy criticized the nation's Catholic bishops for threatening to oppose an overhaul of the nation's health care system unless lawmakers included tighter restrictions on abortion, which have since been added to the House version of the bill. Tobin said he felt Kennedy made an unprovoked attack on the church and demanded an apology.

Since then, their feud has played out in public. Tobin, who has said he might have gone into politics were he not ordained, has written sharp public letters questioning Kennedy's faith and saying his position is scandalous and unacceptable to the church. Kennedy has said his disagreement with the church hierarchy does not make him any less of a Catholic.

Two weeks ago, after a planned meeting between the two fell through, Kennedy said he wanted to stop discussing his faith in public. But then he told

The Providence Journal in a story published Sunday that Tobin instructed him not to receive Communion. He also claimed the bishop had told diocesan priests not to give him Communion. Kennedy and his spokespeople did not return repeated requests from the AP seeking comment.

Tobin said he wrote to Kennedy in February 2007 asking him not to receive Communion, but never formally banned Kennedy from receiving Communion or instructed any priest not to give it to him.

Kennedy said this month that he receives Communion, but he did not say whether his priest is in the Diocese of Providence. Tobin only has authority over priests in Rhode Island.

The bishop said he would probably not personally give Kennedy Communion and might have "a little conversation" with any priest who gave Kennedy the sacrament.

Tobin said his 2007 request was prompted by a statement in December 2006 from the nation's Catholic bishops, which said believers who knowingly and consistently break with church teachings on moral issues such as abortion should refrain from Communion, a central focus of Roman Catholic worship. Tobin would not say Sunday whether he had sent similar letters to other pro-choice Catholic politicians, including Sen. Jack Reed. Reed's spokesman had no immediate comment Sunday on whether he had received such a letter.

In Rhode Island, the nation's most Catholic state, the monthlong drama has had a mixed reception from rank-and-file Catholics, who get far less scrutiny over their abortion views than Catholic politicians.

Angel Madera, 20, a Marine visiting his home in Providence for Thanksgiving, said before going to a Sunday Mass that Tobin was wrong in publicly assailing Kennedy's faith.

"If they believe they're a true

Catholic, who's to say that they're not?" he said.

Several others, like 74-year-old Anne Mitchell said she supported Tobin's attempts to keep strong limits on publicly financed abortion, even though she believed Kennedy was right in saying the country needs health care reform.

"Abortion is wrong. It's always wrong," she said. "Keep abortion out of the bills." Abortion is a major concern for the Catholic bishops because opposition to the procedure is based on the church's earliest teachings on preserving human life, which have not changed. By comparison, church teaching on the death penalty is not as definitive and has changed over time, making it difficult for church leaders to demand that Catholic lawmakers agree.

Only a few U.S. bishops have said they would outright deny Holy Communion to



**In this Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009 photo, Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., L, speaks in Exeter, R.I. Kennedy, a member of the nation's most famous Roman Catholic family, is in a public dispute over abortion with Providence Bishop Thomas Tobin, R, spiritual leader of the nation's most heavily Roman Catholic state, in November 2009.**

Associated Press

a Catholic lawmaker who supports policies that violate church teaching. A larger number of prelates have publicly asked a Catholic politician to voluntarily abstain from the sacrament. For example, Archbishop Joseph Naumann of the Diocese of Kansas City in

Kansas has repeatedly said that former Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, a Catholic Democrat who supports abortion rights, should stop taking Communion until she changes her stance. Sebelius is now President Barack Obama's secretary of Health and Human Services. □

Thursday  
November 26, 2009



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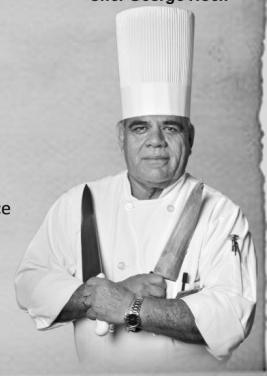
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**HEALTH CARE'**  
*Continued from Page B1*

Congressional budget analysts put the legislation's cost at \$979 billion over a decade and say it would reduce deficits over the same period while extending coverage to 94 percent of the eligible population.

The House approved its version of the bill earlier this month on a near party-line vote of 220-215.

Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, the No. 2 Democrat in the Senate, said the health care bill must be passed by the end of the year so that President Barack Obama and lawmakers can

shift their attention to the economy and improving employment rates.

Such a timeline also would enable Obama to claim victory on a major domestic priority when he delivers his State of the Union speech in January.

But with one-third of Senate seats up for election in 2010, politics will factor heavily into the outcome of the debate on health care.

Sen. Michael Bennet, a junior Democrat who will be seeking his first full term next year in Colorado, where many districts lean conservative, said he would support the health care

overhaul even if doing so means losing his seat.

"The thing that our working families need more than anything else is to end these double-digit cost increases that they're having every single year with health insurance," Bennet said.

Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York said he believes there are enough votes to include a public insurance option in the bill as long as states are allowed to opt out. To do so, all 58 Democrats and independent Sens. Lieberman and Bernie Sanders of Vermont would have to support it.

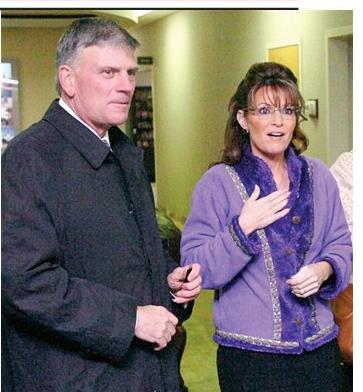
Sanders issued a statement Sunday saying, "I strongly suspect that there are a number of senators, including myself, who would not support final passage without a strong public option."

Lieberman and Nelson have said they object to the public option. On Sunday, Nelson said he is open to negotiating the provision;

he said he would prefer allowing states to opt into the program, instead of having to remove themselves.

Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell said the lingering reservations by moderate Democrats indicate that the party's leaders have gone too far. On Saturday, no Republican voted to begin debate on the bill, which they said would cripple industry and drive up costs for the average American.

"I believe there are a number of Democratic senators who do care what the American people think and are not interested in this sort of arrogant approach that everybody sort of shut up and sit down, get out of the way, we know what's best for you," said McConnell. Brown, Bennet and McConnell appeared on CNN's "State of the Union." Lieberman appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press." Nelson appeared on ABC's "This Week." □



Former governor of Alaska and vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin arrives at the Asheville, N.C. airport on Sunday afternoon Nov. 22, 2009, for a visit with the Graham family. At left is Franklin Graham, who was there to meet her at the airport.

Associated Press

## Sarah Palin dines with Rev. Billy Graham

ASHEVILLE, North Carolina (AP)—Sarah Palin arrived for Sunday dinner with the Rev. Billy Graham a day before a planned stop on her book tour in eastern North Carolina. The former Alaska governor and 2008 Republican vice presidential nominee flew into Asheville and then went to Billy Graham's mountaintop home in Montreat for dinner, said Jeremy Blume, a spokesman for Graham's son, Franklin.

Franklin Graham invited Palin.

"He just saw that she was going to be in the area and he said to come by," Blume told The Charlotte Observer.

The elder Graham has never met Palin, who is scheduled to stop at the military base Fort Bragg on Monday to promote her memoir, "Going Rogue: An American Life."

Franklin Graham got to know Palin early this year in Alaska. She accompanied him as Samaritan's Purse, a Boone-based international relief agency he heads, delivered 44,000 pounds of groceries to Alaskan families who had been hit by a harsh winter in villages along the frozen Yukon River.

Samaritan's Purse has an office in Alaska, and Franklin Graham owns a cabin in the state. Graham also leads the Charlotte-based Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, which his father founded decades ago. □

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**BABY DAUGHTER****Continued from Page B1**

Abigail Mae Bresnik was born as her father circled Earth on his first space shuttle mission, just hours after his first spacewalk.

It was only the second time in history that a NASA astronaut was in orbit instead of the delivery room.

"At 11:04 last night, Abigail Mae Bresnik joined the NASA family," Bresnik announced Sunday morning from the linked space shuttle Atlantis and International Space Station. "Mama and baby are doing very well."

It was the second child for Randolph and Rebecca Bresnik, who adopted a boy from Ukraine a year ago. Big brother Wyatt is now 3½.

Bresnik, 42, a lieutenant colonel in the Marines and former fighter pilot, thanked everyone at Mission Control and elsewhere for their support, especially during the past few days.

Rebecca Bresnik was due to give birth Friday in Houston. But Saturday morning came without any news as Bresnik ventured out on a six-hour spacewalk, installing antennas and other equipment at the space station.

He specifically asked that he receive no baby updates during the spacewalk, so he

could focus on the inherently risky job. When he was safely back inside, he learned his wife had yet to give birth.

As his wife was in labor Saturday evening, Bresnik was connected by the space station's Internet protocol phone to the NASA flight surgeon at the hospital. Bedtime came, and the spaceman signed off for the night.

Abigail Mae — 6 pounds and 13 ounces, and 20 inches long — finally made her appearance, long after all the astronauts had gone to sleep. Mission Control awakened the shuttle crew with the song "Butterfly Kisses," chosen by Rebecca Bresnik for her husband. Among the lyrics: "There's two things I know for sure/She was sent here from heaven and she's daddy's little girl."

Bresnik was immediately patched through to the hospital by Mission Control, which relayed "heartfelt congratulations."

Rebecca Bresnik, an attorney who specializes in international law at Johnson Space Center, said before Atlantis' 11-day flight that she was "a little disappointed" her husband would not be present for the birth. But she said she understood.

"We don't choose the timing,"

she said in an interview that was broadcast by NASA following the birth announcement. "He's trained one year for this mission, but really he's been here five, almost six years. I'm just really excited for him and excited for us."

In the same interview, Bresnik described how they traveled to Ukraine last fall and brought their son home with them last December. The couple were stunned when they found out three months later that they were going to become parents again.

"We've got this wonderfully happy and healthy, little 3½-year-old boy whose life has changed completely," Bresnik

said. "He's gone from being in an orphanage on the other side of the planet to being in the space shuttle simulator here flying with his dad a couple weeks ago."

The astronaut added: "The miracle of adoption as well as the miracle of childbirth all in one year. We're just amazingly blessed."

This is only the second time an American astronaut has become a new father while in space. In 2004, Mike Fincke was in the middle of a six-month space station mission when his second child, a girl, was born.

Sunday was mostly a day off for the seven shuttle fliers and

five space station residents, giving Bresnik time to savor the baby experience. He will venture back out on another spacewalk Monday.

Atlantis will remain docked at the space station until Wednesday and return to Earth on Friday. Rebecca Bresnik understandably will not be on hand for the landing.

The family will be reunited as soon as possible following touchdown, probably the next day.

"I will look forward to that landing ... probably more than anybody has in the history of the space shuttle program," Bresnik said. □



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In this image made available Sunday Nov. 22 2009 and taken from Al Alam TV, an Iranian army weapon is fired in an unspecified location in Iran. Iran on Sunday Nov. 22 2009 began large-scale air defense war games aimed at protecting the country's nuclear facilities against any possible attack, state television reported. It said the five-day drill will cover an area a third of the size of Iran and spread across the central, western and southern parts of the country.

*Associated Press*

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daily:				
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R	PRECIOUS	6:00	8:30	late show: 11:00
daily:				
matinee:	1:00	3:30		
PG-13	TENDERNESS	9:00		late show: 11:30
daily:				
matinee:				
PG-13	PUSH	9:00		11:30
daily:				
matinee:				
R	THE STEPFATHER	4:15	6:45	9:15
daily:				
matinee:	2:00			
PG	THIS IS IT MICHAEL JACKSON	6:00	8:30	late show: 11:45
daily:				
matinee:	1:00	3:30		
PG	TIM BURTON'S NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS	4:00	6:00	late show: 12:00
daily:				
matinee:	12:00	2:00		
PG	SINTERKLAAS EN DE VERDWENEN PAKJESBOOT	4:30	6:45	late show:
daily:				
matinee:	12:00	2:15		
<b>AT PASEO HERENCIA</b>				
R	PARANORMAL ACTIVITY	5:30	7:45	10:00
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matinee:	12:30	3:00		late show: 12:15
PG-13	2012	4:30	8:00	late show: 11:15
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matinee:	1:00			
PG	ASTRO BOY	4:30		late show:
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matinee:	12:00	2:15		
R	LAW ABIDING CITIZENS	9:15		late show: 12:00
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matinee:				
PG	THIS IS IT MICHAEL JACKSON	5:45	8:15	late show: 11:00
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matinee:	12:45	3:15		
PG-13	COPLES RETREAT	7:15	9:45	late show: 12:15
daily:				
matinee:				
PG-13	WHERE WILD THINGS ARE	5:00		late show:
daily:				
matinee:	12:30	2:45		
PG	AMELIA	6:45	9:15	late show: 11:45
daily:				
matinee:				
PG	A CHRTSMAS CAROL 3D	4:45	7:00	late show:
daily:				
matinee:	12:15	2:30		

**Matinee: sat & sun | Late show: fri & sat**

# Iran begins war games to protect nuclear sites

**NASSER KARIMI,**  
Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)

— Iran on Sunday began large-scale air defense war games aimed at protecting its nuclear facilities from attack, state TV reported, as an air force commander boasted the country could deter any military strike by Israel.

It said the five-day drill will cover an area a third of the size of Iran and spread across the central, western and southern parts of the country.

Gen. Ahmad Mighani, head of an air force unit in charge of responding to threats to Iran's air space, said Saturday the war games would cover regions where Iran's nuclear facilities are located.

The drill involves Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard, the paramilitary Basij forces affiliated with the Guard as well as army units. The United States and its European allies accuse Iran of embarking on a nuclear weapons program. Iran denies the charge and insists the program is only for peaceful purposes.

Israel has not ruled out military action to stop Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

The commander of the Guard's air force, Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, meanwhile sought on Sunday to play down the significance of Israel's threats against his country, saying they amounted to psychological warfare.

"We are sure they are not able to do anything against us since they cannot predict our reaction," Hajizadeh was quoted as saying by the Guard's official Web site, Sepahnews.

"If their fighter planes could escape from Iran's air defense system, their bases will be hit by our devastating surface-to-surface missiles before they land," he said.

Also on Sunday, Iran's defense minister, Gen. Ahmad Vahidi, said Iran planned to pursue designing and producing its own air defense missiles, according to the official IRNA news agency.

His comments were apparently in response to the delay in the delivery

from Russia of S-300 anti-aircraft missiles, meant to be a key component of Iran's air defense.

Iran complains that the delay is apparently the result of Israeli and U.S. pressure.

Israel and the United States have opposed the missile deal out of fear Iran could use the system to significantly boost air defenses at its nuclear sites — including its main uranium enrichment plant at Natanz.

Commenting on this week's war games, a senior Obama administration official urged Iran to engage with the international community.

"We would prefer that the Iranian regime follow through on their offer to engage," said Ellen Tauscher, the U.S. undersecretary of state for arms control and international security.

"It is more important for them to build confidence with the international community," she said at a news conference Sunday at the Halifax International Security Forum in Nova Scotia. □

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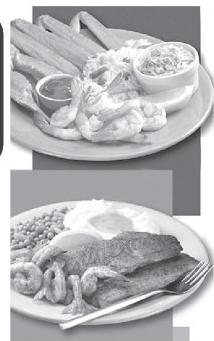
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## Exit polls: No clear winner in Romania's election

ALISON MUTLER

Associated Press Writer

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — A presidential election aimed at helping Romania emerge from a political and economic crisis failed to produce a winner on Sunday, and the top two candidates will compete in a runoff next month, according to two exit polls.

If the exit polls are confirmed by official results on Monday, centrist President Traian Basescu, 58, will face socialist former Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana, 51, in the runoff on Dec. 6.

One exit poll said Basescu won 34.1 percent of the votes, compared to 30.9 percent for Geoana. The other said Basescu won 32.8 percent, compared to 31.7 percent for Geoana. Conservative opposition leader Crin Antonescu polled about 21 percent, finishing third in an election featuring a dozen candidates.

Romania's government collapsed last month amid squabbling between the two-party coalition, and the International Monetary Fund has delayed access to a €1.5 billion (\$2 billion) IMF bailout loan while the country struggles to set up a new government.

A president is key to reviving the government because he nominates a prime minister, whom Parliament must then approve and who would be responsible for forming a new coalition.

Reports of possible fraud in Sunday's election emerged as far more people than normal cast ballots at 3,500 special voting centers that were set up for Romanians who need to vote outside their area of residence because they are traveling.

The Electoral Committee said more than 430,000 people voted at such locations, and witnesses claimed some were being bused there after already having cast ballots elsewhere. For instance, Economy Minister Adriean Videanu called for a halt to "electoral tourism" in Moara Vlasie, near Bucharest, saying election authorities there were overwhelmed.

Basescu and Geoana called the election one of the most important votes in Romania since 1989 and the fall of communism.

Basescu, who is running for a second five-year term as president, said the exit polls appeared to indicate that conservatives were growing in power in Romania.

Geoana, who heads the left-

leaning Social Democrats and is the leader of the Senate, said: "We worked hard to get here. We will work even harder in the next two weeks, and on Dec. 6 we will win together."

More than 18 million Romanians were eligible to vote Sunday, and about 50 percent of registered voters cast ballots, according to the Electoral Committee.

Basescu, who no longer belongs to a political party because of constitutional requirements, has lost some public support because of his stormy relationship with Parliament and the country's deep economic crisis. Geoana favors a broad coalition government, while Basescu wants to form a government from the Democratic Liberal party he used to lead.

Romania's economy, already in a deep recession, is expected to shrink some 8.5 percent this year. The country needs the IMF loan to pay state salaries and pensions, but is unlikely to get it this year. That would force 1.3 million state workers to take eight days of unpaid leave in 2009. Unemployment in Romania, one of Europe's poorest countries, already stands at 7.1 percent, up 3 percent in the last year.

Voters also were taking part



Presidential candidate for the Social Democracy Party Mircea Geoana flashes victory sign upon seeing exit polls, and Romania's President in office, Traian Basescu, left, clenches his fist upon seeing exit polls in Bucharest, Romania, Sunday Nov. 22, 2009. Romania held presidential elections, the first since the country joined the European Union in 2007. According to exit polls President in office Traian Basescu leads after the first round followed by the Social Democracy Party candidate Mircea Geoana. An election runoff will be held on Dec. 6.

Associated Press

in a referendum on Sunday asking if they want to reduce the number of lawmakers in Parliament and abolish one of its two houses.

Basescu, who called the referendum, wants a one-chamber Parliament with a

maximum of 300 lawmakers, down from the current 471. Critics say a smaller parliament would lead to the president having too much power.

Parliament and the president now share power equally. □

**Aruba TODAY**

**JUST SAY N TO DRUGS**

# Survivors recount China mine disaster; 92 dead



Rescuers sit on the railway trolley preparing to enter the site of Saturday's gas explosion for search and rescue at the Xinxing Coal Mine in Hegang, Heilongjiang province, China, Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009. Rescuers worked in frigid cold to reach tens of miners trapped underground Sunday.

*Associated Press*

CARA ANNA  
Associated Press Writer

HEGANG, China (AP) — When gas levels suddenly spiked deep in the Xinxing coal mine, Wang Jiguo grabbed two co-workers and they ran for their lives. Minutes later, there was a huge bang, a torrent of hot air and the earth shuddered. Nearly two days later, at least 92 people are reported dead and 16 missing, the official

Xinhua news agency said. The deadliest accident in China's mining industry for two years has highlighted how heavy demand for power-generating coal comes at a high human cost.

"Development is important, but the growth of GDP shouldn't be achieved at the price of miners' blood," said provincial governor Li Zhanhu, urging officials to better manage coal mines.

Coal is vital for China's economy, which is targeted to grow by 8 percent this year, and its 1.3 billion people, as it is used to generate about three-quarters of the country's electricity.

As search teams in mining carts descended Sunday in what authorities continued to call a rescue mission, fellow miners gathered in freezing weather near the still-steaming shaft and watched silently. One veteran of Xinxing (pronounced shin-shing), now retired after 29 years, looked at the twisted metal and pancaked buildings but remembered the mine below ground as "beautiful."

The blast at the nearly 100-year-old mine in Heilongjiang (pronounced HAY-long-jeeahng) province, near the Russian border, dealt a blow to the central government's race to improve safety, which has seen the shuttering or absorbing of hundreds of smaller, private mines into state-owned operations.

The government says the closure of about 1,000 dangerous small mines last year has helped cut fatalities.

Yet hundreds still die in major accidents each year, even at state-run mines, such as a blast in Shanxi province in February that killed 78 and a gas leak in Chongqing municipality in May that killed 30.

After Saturday's accident, the Xinxing mine's director, deputy director and chief engineer were fired, said an employee, who refused to give his name because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The explosion at 2:30 a.m. Saturday shook the residents of Hegang, an aging city in China's Rust Belt where the streetside snow is gray with coal dust and exhaust.

Longtime residents said the mine had never suffered such an accident before.

"I had to come by and see it," said Tang Cunha, who stood behind the police tape at the blast site and compared the destruction around the mine shaft to that of a massive earthquake. "It's awful, it's awful," he said.

At the Xingshan People's Hospital, Dr. Chen, who gave only one name, recalled the faces of the nearly 40 injured

miners brought in the day before: "They were terrified." "It's a very safe mine," he said. "People never expected it."

Of the 528 people reported working in the mine at the time of the explosion, 420 escaped, Xinhua reported. At the Hegang Mining Group General Hospital, which a spokesman said was treating 32 injured miners, a few were in the intensive care unit under police guard.

Survivors recounted their harrowing escapes. In an account reported by Xinhua, Wang Jiguo, 35, who monitored gas levels in the shaft, suddenly grabbed two other workers near him and started scrambling to the door, shouting: "Run quickly, don't carry anything!"

At the entrance of the shaft, Wang and Fu Maofeng, 48, phoned other workers who were still underground and told them to escape, Fu told Xinhua from his bed in intensive care.

"Just after we hung up the phone, we heard a loud bang from inside the shaft. The entrance of the shaft started shaking," Fu said. Then a wave of searing hot air slammed them to the ground, knocking them unconscious.

When he came to, Fu found himself lying in hospital, his face covered with scratches and burns on his left eye. "Our team has 10 people, and I don't know how they are now," Fu said.

Authorities say the 16 miners still missing are trapped about a third of a mile (half a kilometer) underground. One entrance was blocked, and rescue teams in orange work suits and yellow hard hats were sent underground in mining carts down a separate shaft.

Ventilation and power, which were lost after the blast, have been restored in the mine, and company officials remained hopeful of finding survivors.

"If we haven't found them, to us that means they are still alive," San Jingguang, a spokesman for the mining company, told reporters. "Rescuing people is still our first priority." □

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Photo by Diane Keijzer

# Venezuela: No direct talks with Colombia on bases

CHRISTOPHER  
TOOTHAKER

Associated Press Writer

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela has no interest in talking directly to Colombia to end a monthslong crisis but would support an effort by other South American nations to broker a solution, a top government official said Sunday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Francisco Arias Cardenas said tensions between Caracas and Bogota should be taken up by the Union of South American Nations, a 12-member organization known as Unasur.

Any mediation efforts aimed at easing ongoing tensions between Colombia and Venezuela "must be done within the heart of Unasur,"

Arias Cardenas said during a televised interview.

The diplomat spoke a day after President Hugo Chavez urged civilians to join government-organized militias to be ready to defend Venezuela from a foreign invasion. He said he thinks "it's the obligation" of every member of his socialist party to participate in an ongoing effort to organize combat groups.

Chavez, a former paratroop commander, said the 300 armored vehicles and Russian war tanks that are due to arrive in Venezuela soon along with radar and air defense systems, will help the country's military expand its operational capacity.

Venezuela has already bought more than \$4 billion

worth of Russian arms since 2005, including 24 Sukhoi fighter jets, dozens of attack helicopters and 100,000 Kalashnikov assault rifles. And in September, Russia opened a \$2.2 billion line of credit for Venezuela to purchase more weapons.

The military acquisitions, coupled with weapons purchases among South American nations including Brazil and Ecuador, have raised concerns of an arms race in the region.

Venezuela must prepare for a possible armed conflict, Chavez said, because the United States and Colombia could attack. He claims U.S. "imperialists" want to undermine his "Bolivarian Revolution," a political movement named after 19th-



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez speaks to supporters in front of a sign that reads in Spanish "Against the Yankee bases" and "for peace and sovereignty" at a rally in Caracas, Friday, Nov. 13, 2009. Chavez' supporters protested an agreement that allows the US to expand its military presence in Colombia.

*Associated Press*

century independence hero Simon Bolivar.

He vehemently denied that Venezuela plans to attack its neighbor.

Venezuela and Colombia have been feuding for months over the agreement between Bogota and Washington allowing the U.S. military to increase its presence at seven Colombian bases under a 10-

year lease agreement.

Colombian and U.S. officials say the deal is necessary to more effectively help Colombia fight drug traffickers and leftist rebels, but Chavez claims the agreement poses a threat to Venezuela.

"We are the No. 1 target on the imperial map of this continent," he said. □

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# Johnson wins 4th straight NASCAR championship

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writ

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — All Jimmie Johnson ever wanted was a chance to race with the best in NASCAR. Maybe even win a race or two. Never did he expect to be a champion.

Especially four times over. Johnson bulldozed his way into the record books by becoming the first driver in NASCAR history to win four consecutive championships, finishing fifth in Sunday's season-finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway. He joins Richard Petty (7), Dale Earnhardt (7) and teammate Jeff Gordon (4) as the only drivers to win more than three titles.

"To do something that's never been done in the sport, and love



Jimmie Johnson celebrates after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series season championship, at Homestead-Miami Speedway in Homestead, Fla., Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009.

Associated Press

the sport like I do and respect it like I do and the greats — Petty, Earnhardt, Gordon — to do something they have never done is so awesome," Johnson said. "And to win four championships in eight years, what this team has done — this is unbelievable."

Yes, it is.

Johnson now stands atop NASCAR as a one-man dynasty, much like Tiger Woods, Roger Federer and Lance Armstrong in their sports.

Only Johnson hasn't been feted under a blizzard of confetti by himself. His mighty Hendrick Motorsports team rules NASCAR the way UCLA once dominated the hardwood or Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls reigned supreme.

*Continued on Page B12*



Britain's Andy Murray reacts during his ATP World Tour Finals tennis match against Argentina's Juan Martin Del Potro at the O2 Arena in London, Sunday Nov. 22, 2009.

Associated Press

CHRIS LEHOURITES

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Roger Federer overcame an erratic forehand and Fernando Verdasco on Sunday, rallying to beat his Spanish opponent 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 in the round-robin stage of the ATP World Tour Finals.

The top-ranked Federer was broken only once — in the opening game of the Group A match after double-faulting on the first point — but he never looked dominating until

late in the second set when he converted his first break point to even the score at one set apiece.

In the third set at the O2 Arena, Federer was back to his old self. He controlled play as usual, and gave Verdasco little chance to stay in the match.

"I was down a set, and only the second set was I able to sort of get the ball into play, find my range, find my rhythm," Federer said. "This is also when I started to feel like I had chances.

## Federer rallies to beat Verdasco at ATP finals

"My first break points, I think I could have had them earlier if I played a bit earlier, but they came for set points, and it was a crucial moment for me because I knew the longer the match went, the more my belief was going up and his was going down. Then in the third, I was able to play more freely."

In the early Group A match, Andy Murray overcame a second-set slump to beat Juan Martin del Potro 6-3, 3-6, 6-2. Federer had been in real danger of losing for the third straight match. Although Verdasco earned only two more break points in the match, his shots were landing and his serve was working for much of the night.

All that changed in the course of three shots. Federer and Verdasco were even at 15-15 on the Spaniard's serve in the 12th game of the second set when Verdasco shanked an overhead shot and then sent a forehand long. With two break points, Federer converted with

an easy smash at the net on the first.

"After that, my fitness started going down," Verdasco said. "He also got confidence, and the match changed."

Federer finished the match with more unforced errors on his forehand (15) than winners (13). But only one of those errors came in the third set. Overall, Federer had 30 winners and 29 unforced errors, while Verdasco managed only 18 winners and 31 unforced errors.

"I don't think he has much to prove," Federer said. "Now he has to reach very high, which is not an easy thing to do because it's quite open at the top in a way, so everybody beats everybody."

Coming into the tournament for the top eight players in the world, Federer was riding a two-match losing streak. He was defeated by Novak Djokovic in the Swiss Indoors final early this month, and then lost to Julien Benneteau in his only match at the Paris

Masters.

Federer will next play Murray on Tuesday, and Verdasco will take on Del Potro.

In Group B, Rafael Nadal will play Robin Soderling on Monday in the first singles match of the day. Novak Djokovic then faces Nikolay Davydenko.

Murray and Del Potro mixed brilliant winners with an equal amount of simple errors in the opening match, and it was the Argentine who double-faulted to give Murray his one and only match point.

"It was a really good start," Murray said. "Me and Juan haven't played that much since the U.S. Open. I kind of expected a little bit of a scrappy match."

Del Potro needed a medical time-out after the third game in the first set to treat a bleeding nose, but didn't seem bothered by the ailment for the rest of the game. He shrugged off the incident after the match, saying he has a history of nosebleeds. □

## NFL Roundup

# Colts stay undefeated

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — The undefeated Indianapolis Colts found yet another way to win a close game, their 19th straight victory. The 17-15 win secured on former Ravens kicker Matt Stover's go-ahead field goal gave Indianapolis (10-0), the second-longest streak in NFL history behind a 21-game run by the New England Patriots (2006-08). Indy received an inspired performance from the defense and overcame an uncharacteristic three turnovers. Much to the dismay of the Ravens and their fans, Stover booted the decisive field goal with 7:02 left. Colts linebacker Gary Brackett then intercepted Joe Flacco's pass at the Indianapolis 13 with 2:42 remaining, and the Colts kept the ball until the closing seconds.

Baltimore's last gasp ended when Ed Reed fumbled on a punt return with 17 seconds left. Indianapolis has won its last four games by a combined 10 points. The Colts usually rely on Peyton Manning, who fashioned a huge comeback against New England last week, but the credit for this victory belonged to a defense that did not allow a touchdown.

Billy Cundiff made field goals of 46, 44, 38, 36 and 20 yards in his debut with Baltimore (5-5). But he also was wide right on a 30-yard attempt that would have given the Ravens a 15-14 lead in the third quarter.

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Drew Brees threw for three touchdowns and the Saints shrugged off a slow start defensively to remain unbeaten. Robert Meacham caught touchdown passes of 4 and 6 yards in the first half. Third-string running back Mike Bell scored on runs of 3 and 1 yards in the second half, when New Orleans gained 147 of its 183 yards rushing. The Saints (10-0) have their first 10-game winning streak in franchise history.

A spate of turnovers made the Saints seem more vulnerable over the past month, but Brees

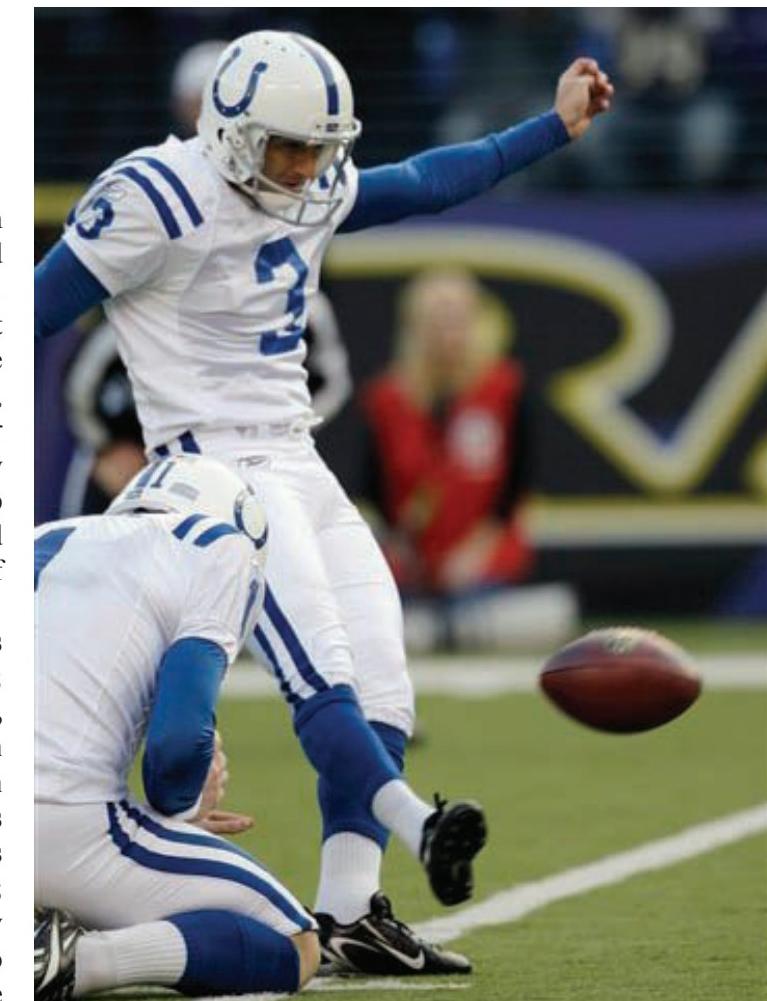
didn't throw an interception for the first time in five games. The Saints also didn't allow a sack for the first time since Oct. 18 against the Giants. Tampa Bay (1-9) drove 95 yards for a touchdown on its first possession. But Freeman had little success after his 18-yard scoring pass to Michael Clayton gave the Bucs a short-lived 7-0 lead.

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — Ryan Succop kicked a 22-yard field goal with 8:28 left in overtime after Chris Chambers' 61-yard catch-and-run, and the Chiefs snapped a team-record 10-game home losing streak.

The Super Bowl champs, with Charlie Batch replacing a shaken-up Ben Roethlisberger in overtime, had to punt on their first possession. Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said Roethlisberger's injury was a "concussion-oriented thing."

The Chiefs faced third down when Matt Cassel connected with Chambers, who went 61 yards before he was pushed out of bounds at the 4. Succop, the final player drafted in April, kicked the game-winner for the Chiefs' first home victory in more than a year. Succop also had a 27-yarder that tied it 17-17 in the final seconds of the third quarter.

**In other NFL games it was**  
**Detroit 38, Cleveland 37;**  
**N.Y. Giants 34, Atlanta 31,**  
**OT; Dallas 7, Washington**  
**6; Green Bay 30, San**  
**Francisco 24; Indianapolis**  
**17, Baltimore 15; Kansas**  
**City 27, Pittsburgh 24, OT;**  
**New Orleans 38, Tampa Bay**  
**7; Jacksonville 18, Buffalo**  
**15; Minnesota 35, Seattle**  
**9; Arizona 21, St. Louis 13;**  
**New England 31, N.Y. Jets**  
**14; San Diego 32, Denver 3;**  
**and Oakland 20, Cincinnati**  
**17. □**



Indianapolis Colts's Matt Stover connects for the go-ahead field goal during the second half of an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens on Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009, in Baltimore. The Colts won 17-15. Holding on the play is Pat McAfee.

Associated Press

## Bolt, Richards win Athlete of the Year awards

GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

MONACO (AP) — Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt and 400-meter runner Sanya Richards of the United States have won their second IAAF World Athlete of the Year awards.

Bolt retained the honor Sunday by winning the 100 and 200 meters finals in record times at the World Championships in Berlin, matching his 100 and 200 double from the 2008 Beijing Olympics. He won a third gold in the 400-meter relay.

"It's been an amazing year for me," said Bolt, whose training was hampered by a foot injury after he crashed his car in April.

"I had to refocus my goals and put in a lot of hard work. I did extremely well and I'm proud of myself."

Richards, the 2006 winner, got her first major individual gold medal at the worlds in August. She also won at all six Golden League meetings in Europe to claim a share of the \$1 million jackpot (€673,000) offered to athletes who swept their event.

"I am so excited and overwhelmed," said the Jamaican-born Richards, who was Olympic favorite in Beijing but took bronze. "You work so hard to be a world champion. It's right up there with winning the title in Berlin."

Lamine Diack, president of the

IAAF governing body, praised Bolt for raising his performances to "an unimaginable level."

"We need stars in the sport," Diack said. "He brings a lot of prestige to our sport and is one of the best-known people on the planet."

The 23-year-old Bolt said he aimed to go unbeaten through the 2010 season, when he will compete at seven of the 14 meets which make up the new global Diamond League circuit.

He has signed a contract to race against Tyson Gay of the U.S. and fellow Jamaican Asafa Powell — the three fastest men in history who went 1-2-3 in Berlin.

"A lot of people are going to watch out for the showdowns," Bolt said.

Gay told The Associated Press on Saturday that he wanted a 100 rematch with Bolt at the New York City meeting June 12.

"That would make track and field huge again in the United States," Gay said at a Diamond League launch.

Richards credited Bolt and other Jamaican sprinters for inspiring her in Beijing with their obvious love of the sport.

"These athletes were just having so much fun," Richards recalled. "I was so focused on winning, the medals and the money and everything that came with being a champion that I



Jamaican sprinter, Usain Bolt, right, US track and field sprinter Sanya Richards hold their "Athlete of the Year Awards", Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009, in Monaco, awarded by the International Athletic Foundation, during the 2009 World Athletics Gala Awards.

Associated Press

forgot the simple enjoyment and fun of track and field."

Richards said she watched videos with her parents of her running as a child aged seven, and began to relax during races.

"I just felt like I was running a lot lighter, the races became a lot easier," she said.

Richards said her goal for 2010 is to break the U.S. record of 48.70 she set in Athens three years ago. □

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Jimmie Johnson celebrates after winning his fourth consecutive NASCAR Sprint Cup Series season title, at Homestead-Miami Speedway in Homestead, Fla., Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009.

*Associated Press*

**NASCAR CHAMPIONSHIP***Continued from Page B10*

Johnson's title gave a record 12th overall championship to team owner Rick Hendrick,

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who was in North Carolina with a niece who's awaiting an emergency liver transplant. In his absence, the team took the top three spots in the final standings. Mark Martin wound up with his fifth runner-up finish in the standings, while Gordon was third.

"I feel really, really blessed to have had a chance," Martin said.

There's seemingly plenty of chances left for Johnson's tag-team with crew chief Chad Knaus to keep the No.

48 in the title hunt for another decade.

The 34-year-old Californian on Friday signed a five-year contract extension to drive for Hendrick through 2015, and Knaus has insisted the No. 48 team can keep this pace for the next several years.

"He's not done yet," teammate Martin said.

No, he is not. Johnson never let up in pursuit of the championship, even though he needed only to finish 25th or better to get it Sunday. But he pushed for all 400 miles and even threatened to try to run down the leaders to better his eventual fifth-place finish. "History, boys!" he shouted as he crossed the finish line. "How about some history!" Upon leaving his car in Victory Lane, Johnson first thanked the fans, tears sparkling in his eyes.

"Man, it's going to take a while to sink in," he said.

It was a sometimes testy drive into history for Johnson, who was at times annoyed at rival drivers and even Gordon, the mentor and teammate who helped him land his job with Hendrick Motorsports.

Nobody gave Johnson anything, either. The other drivers raced hard around him all day, making Johnson earn every point in a race won by Denny Hamlin, who established himself as a driver to watch in 2010 by winning a career-high four races this season.

Hamlin also managed to keep pace with Johnson at times but fell out of contention with

three DNFs.

That won't get it done against Johnson and Knaus, who won seven races this season and, as usual, turned it up a notch when the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship began.

Johnson grabbed four of his wins in the Chase and played it safe only once, at Talladega when he ran near the back of the field most of the day to avoid the trouble at the Alabama track.

Only the joke was on him when his problems popped up a week later, at Texas, where he was wrecked on the third lap and lost 111 points from his cushion over Martin. It still left him with a cozy 78-point margin headed into last weekend's race at Phoenix, where he probably could have laid back and protected his lead.

Instead, he pounced and earned a dominating victory that set the stage for an easy Sunday.

Of course, he instead went hard. After several tense laps chasing Gordon for fifth place — Johnson at one point complained over his radio "I let him go, now why won't he just go somewhere!" — he asked Knaus if he had enough time to catch Hamlin and the leaders.

Johnson didn't like being told no by his crew chief.

"Is that a dare?" he asked Knaus. "No. That is a fact," Knaus replied.

So is Johnson's place in history, which seems to be undervalued despite 47 victories since 2002. □

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Brandweer	115
Brandweer II	582-1108
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# Presidente de Colombia descarta cualquier agresión a Venezuela

CUCUTA, Colombia (Reuters) - El presidente de Colombia, Alvaro Uribe, descartó el sábado la posibilidad de impulsar cualquier agresión contra Venezuela o restringir el acceso a sus ciudadanos, pero criticó la destrucción por parte de militares de ese país de dos puentes en la frontera.

La declaración se produjo en medio las tensas relaciones diplomáticas de los dos países y después de la destrucción de los puentes que Venezuela dijo eran ilegales y usados por narcotraficantes y grupos armados irregulares.

También se producen después de que el presidente Hugo Chávez llamó a militares y a civiles a prepararse para la guerra, en rechazo a un acuerdo que permite a Estados Unidos usar siete bases en Colombia.

"Hago llegar desde aquí una voz de afecto al pueblo de Venezuela, el hermano pueblo de Venezuela jamás escuchará siquiera una murmuración de agresión de parte del pueblo o del Gobierno de Colombia", dijo Uribe en

esta ciudad ubicada en la frontera con la nación petrolera.

"Si el Gobierno de Venezuela tiene información que por allí transitan narcotraficantes, contrabandistas, pues en el Gobierno de Colombia encuentran todo el acompañamiento para tomar todas las decisiones contra el delito", agregó.

Uribe, el más importante aliado de Estados Unidos en América Latina, reiteró que su Gobierno presentará ante organismos internacionales la denuncia por la destrucción de los puentes que permitían la comunicación entre comunidades de los dos países.

El presidente colombiano apeló al derecho de gentes y al derecho internacional para afirmar que su Gobierno no restringirá el paso a los venezolanos por la frontera.

"Vengo a Cúcuta a decirle a mis compatriotas que jamás nosotros restringiremos las fronteras de la patria para el acceso de nuestros hermanos venezolanos, de los otros países, y que



Imagen de archivo del presidente colombiano, Alvaro Uribe, 5 nov 2009. REUTERS/Jose Miguel Gomez

jamás restringiremos el derecho de los colombianos a ir al lugar del mundo que quieren hacerlo, menos en la frontera", afirmó. □

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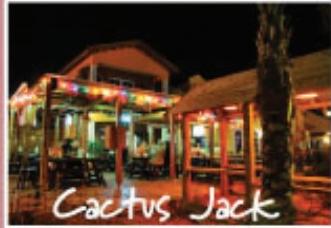


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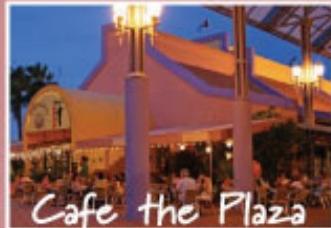
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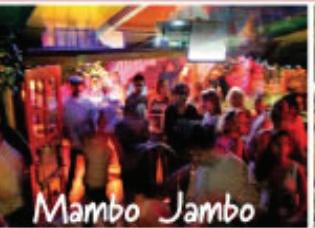
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